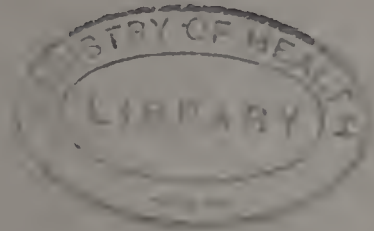


THIRSK

Rural District Council.

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. Annual Report .

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the Year 1925.

Annual

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THIRSK :

J. BELL, PRINTER, INGRAMGATE.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.



MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1925, which in accordance with the instructions from the Ministry of Health is in the nature of a Survey Report for the 5 years preceding.

In a large agricultural area with its associated difficulties in the way of separate arrangements for sanitation and similar work there is necessarily slower development in Public Health Administration.

This is to a certain extent counterbalanced by the comparative absence of overcrowding and smoke with freer air circulation and more sunlight.

The chief factors in maintaining the health of a District are provision of good water supplies, adequate disposal of refuse and provision for isolation in case of infectious disease.

During the period under observation the water supply to the Thirsk Area has been augmented by obtaining a suitable and adequate supply from the bore hole at Kepwick. Hitherto in a dry summer there was always the risk of a curtailment of the supply. This has now been obviated. The supply to Topcliffe and Dalton is still under consideration but with every prospect of an early arrangement being made.

Sanitary work is along the lines of previous years and is efficiently managed by Mr. Lupton, your Sanitary Inspector, of whose work I wish to record my appreciation. For the isolation of infectious disease the hospital has proved adequate and now arrangements for the treatment of smallpox in the area have been made with Middlesbrough Council on a capitation payment basis.

Little building has been done of a nature suitable for the housing of the working classes nor is it reasonable to expect private enterprise to provide such buildings while the cost of erection negatives the possibility of a compensative rent.

A Child Welfare has been organised for Thirsk and Sowerby, meeting every alternate Thursday. The district nurse attends and helped by a ladies committee, does very thorough work. Dr. Davies takes charge for 6 months of the year and I for the other 6 months.

There is now a district nurse at Kirby Wiske for the areas of Kirby Wiske, Sandhutton, Maunby, Newby Wiske and Otterington.

For the future I should like to see a further development along the lines of Public Water Supplies. Nothing has a more deleterious effect on the health of the community than the absence of a pure and adequate water supply. In Rural Areas the disposal of refuse, except in the town and larger villages, is and has to be a matter of individual arrangement, and as long as this is along lines of general hygiene is satisfactory, but in many cases the water is drawn from surface wells for the sake of convenience placed near to the house or garden and being constantly in danger of pollution is a constant peril.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Our Area is a large agricultural one and as most of the land is of a fertile nature it supports a population which will compare favourably with most Rural Areas. The district is mostly flat except on the east where it is bounded by the Hambleton Hills and the soil is mostly of an open nature, a feature beneficial to the health of the community.

Area (acres) 64,024

Population (1921) 12,300 Estimated (1925) 12,540

Number of inhabited houses (1921) 2,961

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) 2,285

Rateable Value (1921) £110,965

Sum represented by a penny rate £470

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	
Births	191	94	97	Birth Rate (R.G.) 15.23 per 1000
Legitimate	181	88	93	
Illegitimate	10	6	4	
Deaths	151	75	76	Death Rate (R.G.) 14.43 per 1000

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of Childbirth
From Sepsis, Nil. Other Causes, 2.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:

	16	9	7	
Legitimate	14	7	7	Death Rate 77.34 per 1000 births
Illegitimate	2	2	Nil	Death Rate 200 per 1000 births

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 4.

Any unusual or excessive mortality during year, Nil.

The Birth Rate is lower than the average for the last 10 years being this year 15.23, last year 18.98, and 1923 18.93.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 18.3.

The Death Rate of illegitimate children is 200 per 1000 births of illegitimate children, but where the number is small one extra death means a large rise in the percentage.

TABLE OF NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Total admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	15	4	Nil
Diphtheria	2	1	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	5	Nil	2
Other diseases generally notifiable (Erysipelas)	1	Nil	Nil
Other diseases notifiable locally (Whooping Cough)	7	Nil	Nil

The ages of those notified for the different diseases are as follows :—

Scarlet Fever. 1 to 5 years 1, 5 to 10 years 6, 10 to 15 years 4, 15 to 25 years 3, over 40 years 1.

Diphtheria. 5 years 1, 64 years 1.

Enteric Fever. 7 years 1.

Pneumonia. 15 to 25 years 2, 40 years 1, 50 years and upwards 2.

Erysipelas. Over 50 years 1.

Whooping Cough. Under 1 year 1, 1 to 5 years 5, 10 to 15 years 1

TUBERCULOSIS.	Total Cases Notified.	Total Deaths.
Pulmonary	M. Nil	Nil
	F. 1	1
Non-Pulmonary	M. 2	Nil
	F. Nil	Nil

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases notified 1. Treated at home 1. Vision Unimpaired 1.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were 2 deaths from Influenza and 14 from Pneumonia, but this includes Broncho-Pneumonia. Of the 5 cases notified two died.

There were 5 deaths from Tuberculosis, 3 of the respiratory system and 2 Other Tubercular Disease. 1 death was that of a woman 43 years of age, notified during the year. Some of the others were notified as suffering from Tuberculous Disease previous to the year under review.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

The Year 1925 was satisfactory from a Public Health point of view as there was no epidemic of note. Towards the latter end of the year there was a good deal of Scarlet Fever in the Felixkirk area due to the presence in school of an infectious case as previously reported to you.

The following Schools were closed during the Year :—

Felixkirk	30 : 11 : 25	3 weeks for Scarlet Fever.
Kirby Wiske	16 : 12 : 25	19 days for Scarlet Fever.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

HOSPITALS, NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, ETC.

1. Tuberculosis. Under the County Council arrangements are made for Tuberculosis Clinics at Northallerton, and visits to the patients' homes are made by the Tuberculosis Officer. A Sanatorium at Morris Grange is available for suitable cases. There is also now an Orthopædic Hospital at Kirbymoorside where suitable cases are received.

As mentioned earlier in the Report a Clinic is held at Thirsk for Maternity and Child Welfare.

There is a District Nurse for Thirsk, South Kilvington and Carlton Miniott, and 1 for Sowerby. There is also now one for the Kirby Wiske area, as already mentioned. The Thirsk nurse undertakes work at the Schools under the County Council for which a grant is received by the Thirsk Nursing Association.

The treatment of Venereal Disease is as in the past at the various Centres as arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health.

There is no Maternity or Children's Hospital in the area.

FEVER. Isolation Hospital. Treatment for 2 classes of infectious disease concurrently.

SMALL-POX. Provision arranged with Middlesbrough Council. There are besides these the Union Hospital under the Guardians and the Lambert Memorial Hospital under a private Governing Body. The only provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children and homeless children is made by the Guardians and is adequate.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- (a) For infectious cases motor ambulance kept at the Isolation Hospital.
- (b) Non-infectious. Advantage is taken when necessary of the Red Cross Ambulance at Northallerton.

LABORATORY WORK.

This is done by the Clinical Research Association and paid for by the Council.

During the year 10 swabs were taken. 1 positive, 9 negative.

7 sputa were examined. 3 positive, 4 negative.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided by the Council.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

All the slaughter houses are regularly visited by the Sanitary Inspector and defects, etc., corrected. I have paid several visits with him to inspect suspected carcasses and where condemned the carcasses were destroyed.

Disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

Action under Dairies, etc., Act. Nil.

Action under Sale of Food and Drugs Act. Nil.

The work of scavenging is in Thirsk and Sowerby done by public contract and is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Clerk (in conjunction with the Board of Guardians).

Medical Officer of Health (part time).

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Matron at Isolation Hospital.

W. G. MacArthur,

Medical Officer of Health.

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Surveyor's Office,
Castle Garth,
Thirsk.

LIST OF INSPECTIONS, ETC

1st January, 1925, to 31st December, 1925.

Inspections, Privies, Ashpits, Etc.	...	...	349
Defective Privies, Pans and Ashpits	...	...	22
„ Drains	...	...	8
„ Roofs, Walls, Eaves, Spouting, Etc.	...	...	7
„ Water Supplies	...	...	6
Insufficient Closet Accommodation	...	...	2
Inspections after Infectious Disease	...	...	7
„ Unsound Food, Carcases destroyed	Mutton 6	Oxen 3	
„ Slaughter Houses	...	...	181
„ Cowsheds	...	...	116
„ Factory and Workshops	...	...	41
„ Accumulation of Refuse	...	...	4
„ Keeping of Animals, Fowls, Etc.	...	...	3
Registered Slaughter Houses	...	...	19
Reinspections	...	...	132
Inspections under P. H. Act	...	...	74
Unfit Dwellings	...	...	10
Dwellings closed	...	...	2
Not reasonably fit	...	...	5
Rendered fit	...	...	5
Notices served	...	...	12
Preliminary Notices	...	...	24
Notices to provide Water Supply	...	...	2
Completed by Owners	...	...	12
Inspections where food is prepared	...	...	26
Houses built 8, 4 of which were State assisted.			

Causes of Death in Thirsk Rural District, 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.—Civilians only.				Males.	Females
ALL CAUSES.				75	76
Influenza	...	...	...	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	—	3
Other Tuberculous Disease	...	...	...	2	—
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	5	13
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	1	8
Heart Disease	...	...	..	13	11
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	11	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	8	6
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	..	—	1
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	4
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	1	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Perturition	...	...	...	—	2
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	...	...	...	5	1
Suicide	...	...	...	2	1
Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	2	—
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	19	17
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...	Total	9	7
	...	...	Illegitimate	2	—
Total Births	...	...	...	94	97
Legitimate	...	...	..	88	93
Illegitimate	...	...	...	6	4
Population				12,540.	



